

## CLAIMS

1. A control apparatus having detection means for detecting the using circumstances of a control object device,

wherein said control object device is controlled on the basis of the detected results of said detection means.

2. The control apparatus according to claim 1 comprising:

use enablement/disablement judgment means for judging enablement/disablement of use of said control object device on the basis of the detected results; and

warning signal producing means for producing a warning signal when disablement of use is judged by said use enablement/disablement judgment means.

3. The control apparatus according to claim 2 further comprising display means for displaying said warning signal. *a*

4. The control apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said detection means detects a status change of said control object device, and detects the using circumstances of said control object device according to the detected result of said status change.

5. The control apparatus according to claim 4 wherein said control object device is recording and/or reproducing equipment.

6. The control apparatus according to claim 5 wherein said control object device at least includes a digital versatile disc device, a digital video cassette recorder, a tape

coder, a compact disc device, ad a minidisc device.

7. The control apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the status change of said control object device is a change of control status values of a disc device or a change of control status values of a tape device or a change of control status value of a semiconductor device.

8. The control apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the status change of said control object device is a change of a recording passage time counter value or a change of a reproducing passage time counter value.

9. The control apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the status change of said control object device is a change of a tape counter value or a change of a frame value or a change of a field value or a change of a track number.

10. The control apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said detection means detects the using circumstances of said control object device every fixed time.

11. The control apparatus according to claim 1 comprising decision means for deciding the presence or absence of the setting of possessory rights relative to said control object device, wherein said detection means detects the using circumstances of said control object device when decision of possessory rights relative to said control object device cannot be made.

12. The control apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said decision means decides the presence or absence of the setting of said possessory rights on the basis of a fixed standard.

13. The control apparatus according to claim 12 wherein said fixed standard is an IEEE1394 standard.

14. The control apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said use enablement/disablement judgment means judges enablement/disablement of use of said control object device on the basis of the decided result of said decision means or the detected result of said detection means.

15. The control apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said control object device is one or all equipment except the own connected to a network.

16. The control apparatus according to claim 15 wherein said network is an IEEE1394 bus.

17. The control apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said detection means judges ON/OFF of a power supply of said control object device, and detects the using circumstances of said control object device according to the result of said power supply state judgement.

18. The control apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said detection means judges whether said control object device is recording and/reproducing equipment or not, and detects the using circumstances of said control object device according to the result of said equipment judgement.

19. The control apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said detection means judges, when said control object device is recording and/reproducing equipment, whether the state of said control object device is recording and/reproducing equipment

is decided or not to thereby detect the using circumstances of said control object device.

20. The control apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said detection means judges whether said control object device is office selection equipment or not, and detects the using circumstances of said control object device according to the result of said equipment judgement.

21. The control apparatus according to claim 20 wherein said detection means judges, when said control object device is said office selection equipment, whether the state of said office selection by said office selection equipment is decided or not to thereby detect the using circumstances of said office selection equipment.

22. The control apparatus according to claim 4 wherein said detection means detects the using circumstances of said control object device from the state itself of said control object device.

23. The control apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said control object device is an office selection equipment or an amplifier.

24. The control apparatus according to claim 22 wherein the state of said control object device is an office number.

25. A control method for detecting the using circumstances of a control object device to carry out controlling of said control object on the basis of said detected result.

26. The control method according to claim 25 wherein judgment is made of

enablement/disablement of use of said control object device on the basis of said detected result, and when judgment is made of disablement of use, a warning signal is produced.

27. The control method according to claim 26 wherein said warning signal is displayed.

28. The control method according to claim 25 wherein a state change of said control object device is detected, and the using circumstances of said control object device is detected according to the detected result of said state change.

29. The control method according to claim 28 wherein said control object device is recording and/or reproducing equipment. *a*

30. The control method according to claim 29 wherein said control object device at least includes a digital versatile disc device, a digital video cassette recorder, a tape coder, a compact disc device, ad a minidisc device.

31. The control method according to claim 28 wherein the status change of said control object device is a change of control status values of a disc device or a change of control status values of a tape device or a change of control status value of a semiconductor device.

32. The control method according to claim 28 wherein the status change of said control object device is a change of a recording passage time counter value or a change of a reproducing passage time counter value.

33. The control method according to claim 28 wherein the status change of said

control object device is a change of a tape counter value or a change of a frame value or a change of a field value or a change of a track number.

34. The control method according to claim 25 wherein detection of the using circumstances of said control object device is carried out every fixed time.

35. The control method according to claim 25 wherein decision of the presence or absence of the setting of possessory rights relative to said control object device is decided, and when the decision of possessory rights relative to said control object device cannot be made, the using circumstances of said control object device is detected.

36. The control method according to claim 35 wherein the presence or absence of the setting of said possessory rights is decided on the basis of a fixed standard.

37. The control method according to claim 36 wherein said fixed standard is an IEEE1394 standard. *a*

38. The control method according to claim 35 wherein the enablement/disablement of use of said control object device is judged on the basis of the decided result of said decision means or the detected result of said detection means.

39. The control method according to claim 25 wherein said control object device is one or all equipment except the own connected to a network.

40. The control method according to claim 39 wherein said network is an IEEE1394 bus.

41. The control method according to claim 25 wherein ON/OFF of a power supply

of said control object device is judged, and the using circumstances of said control object device is detected according to the result of said power supply state judgement.

42. The control method according to claim 25 wherein whether said control object device is recording and/reproducing equipment or not is judged, and the using circumstances of said control object device is detected according to the result of said equipment judgement.

43. The control method according to claim 42 wherein when said control object device is recording and/reproducing equipment, whether the state of said control object device is recording and/reproducing equipment is decided or not to thereby detect the using circumstances of said control object device.

44. The control method according to claim 25 wherein whether said control object device is office selection equipment or not is judged, and the using circumstances of said control object device is detected according to the result of said equipment judgement.

45. The control method according to claim 44 wherein when said control object device is said office selection equipment, whether the state of said office selection by said office selection equipment is decided or not is judged to thereby detect the using circumstances of said office selection equipment.

46. The control method according to claim 28 wherein the using circumstances of said control object device is detected from the state itself of said control object device.

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